

REMARKS

Claims 20 through 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on a formal issue cited by the Examiner in item 3 of the Office Action. In particular, item 3 indicates that it is unclear whether the “control means” in amended Claim 20 is part of the overall claimed “control apparatus”. In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants have amended Claim 20 in the manner suggested by the Examiner in order to resolve this issue. In particular, Claim 20 now clearly includes the “control means” as part of the body of the claim, and therefore as part of the claimed control apparatus. Accordingly, Claim 20, and therefore Claims 21-28 which depend therefrom, are now believed to be clear and definite. Moreover, in the absence of further grounds of rejection, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

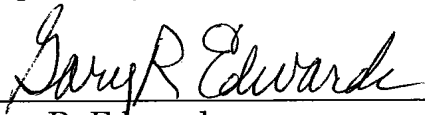
Applicants acknowledge that this application is currently under final rejection. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that the changes made by the foregoing amendment are purely formal in nature, being designed to address a formal issue cited in the Office Action, and do not alter the scope of the claim, raise a new issue or require further search. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the foregoing amendment after final rejection is proper in

accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, such entry and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056203.50959C1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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